

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 11952 010922Z

46

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARA-06 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /058 W

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R 010827Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 242

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T TEHRAN 11952

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, ET, IZ, IT

SUBJ: IRANIAN INQUIRY ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN IRAQ, SOUTH

YEMEN, AND ETHIOPIA

REF: (A) TEHRAN 11403, (B) STATE 291504

1. SOME DAYS AGO WHEN URI LUBRANI, UNOFFICIAL ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN, CALLED TO SEE ME ON ANOTHER MATTER, RAISED WITH HIM GENERAL CONTENTS OF REFTEL (A). MORNING DECEMBER 1, LUBRANI REPORTED BACK TO ME WITH INFORMATION FROM HIS PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO LUBRANI, THERE IS NOT MUCH TRAFFIC OF CUBANS SOUTHWARD FROM BAGHDAD. IN OTHER WORDS, HE CONTENTS THAT CUBANS ARRIVING IN BAGHDAD BY AND LARGE REMAIN THERE. THE ISRAELIS ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE 150 CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN IRAQ TRAINING "THE POPULAR ARMY" (MILITIA).

3. LUBRANI SAYS THAT ACCORDING TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S ESTIMATES THERE ARE ABOUT 400 CUBANS IN THE PDRY WHERE THEY ARE TRAINING MILITIA, PFLO CADRES, AND LOCAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE UNITS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THE ASSERTION THAT CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN ETHIOPIA ARE REPLACING ISRAELIS, LUBRANI

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QUIPPED, "WE HAVE NOT HEARD OF IT." LUBRANI WAS ONCE

ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA.) THE ISRAELIS HAVE INFORMATION THAT ABOUT 150 CUBANS HAVE ARRIVED IN ETHIOPIA OSTENSIBLY FROM ANGOLA. WHAT CONNECTION THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE WITH THE CUBAN EMBASSY WHICH RECENTLY OPENED IN ADDIS ABABA IS APPARENTLY NOT CLEAR.

5. LUBRANI SAYS THAT HIS PEOPLE BELIEVE THERE ARE BETWEEN 400 AND 600 CUBANS IN SOMALIA WHERE THEY ARE USED TO TRAIN GUERRILLA FORCES AND LOCAL MILITIA.

6. CONTENTS OF REFTEL (B) PASSED TO IRANIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECEMBER 1.  
HELMS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY ADVISERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976TEHRAN11952  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X1  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 76 TEHRAN 11403, 76 STATE 291504  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <12 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IRANIAN INQUIRY ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN IRAQ, SOUTH YEMEN, AND ETHIOPIA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IR, ET, IZ, IT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006